

20th March 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

Coronavirus update

Last night the government published information on the list of critical workers and guidance for schools. These documents can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision> and here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

**If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
There is no requirement to send children (including those with EHCPs) to school if
you can accommodate their care at home.**

From Monday 23rd March, Hookstone Chase will be offering childcare support for vulnerable children and children of critical workers who cannot be kept at home. If you work in one of the critical sectors listed, **and you cannot keep your child safe at home** then please email the school at admin@hookstonechase.n-yorks.sch.uk stating your job role, your child's name and that you wish them to receive childcare from Monday.

- **Health and social care**
 - This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.
- **Education and childcare**
 - This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.
- **Key public services**
 - This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.
- **Local and national government**
 - This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.
- **Food and other necessary goods**
 - This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).
- **Public safety and national security**
 - This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

- **Transport**
 - This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

- **Utilities, communication and financial services**
 - This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

It is likely that as this crisis continues, individual schools will become unable to offer provision and your children may be asked to attend a central location in another school. I will update you in due course when we know more. Schools will not be operating a curriculum rather they are responding to a childcare need and so lessons will not take place as usual.

I appreciate how challenging this time is for you and your families and we are working hard to alleviate that pressure. I reiterate the importance of self-isolation where possible in order to reduce the spread of the virus and so ask respectfully that if there is any way you can arrange home care for your children then please support our community by doing this.

Teachers will be updating work packages via Marvellous Me and our school website.

My final sentiment is as a teacher and a parent. This is the greatest opportunity we have known in our children's lives to model the behaviours that we can all be proud of – courage, decency, kindness and hard work. Look after yourselves and look after each other. We are in this together and we will come out the other side as a strengthened community with more shared values than ever before.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Watson

(This letter and any further updates will be uploaded to our website)